You Yangs Regional Park

Visitor Guide

The granite peaks of the You Yangs rise dramatically from the surrounding volcanic plains between Melbourne and Geelong. Although only 340 metres high, they dominate the landscape, and are clearly visible from as far away as the bay side of Melbourne and beyond.

Go for a walk

Fantastic walking opportunities abound within the park, catering for all ages and abilities. Many of the walking tracks can be linked by management vehicle tracks to provide longer walks for the more enthusiastic. Dogs are welcome in the park but must be kept on a leash at all times.

- **Big Rock Walk** – 3km, 1 hour return From the Park Office car park, wind your way around Big Rock and then back down the same path.
- **Big Rock** – 100m, 10 minutes return Starting from the Big Rock car park this walk takes you to Big Rock with brilliant views towards Geelong.
- **East-West Walk** – 4.5km, 2 hours return Starting and finishing at the Turntable car park, this challenging loop walk provides excellent views of the park and surrounding countryside.
- **Flinders Peak** – 3.2km, 1 hour return Starting from the Turntable car park, this walk takes you to the highest point of the You Yangs. There are 450 steps and some sections with steep gradients.
- **Branding Yard Trail** – 5km, 2.5 hours return This gentle walk starts from either the Turntable car park or Branding Yard Road. From the Turntable car park, walk down a medium gradient to connect with the trail.

Have a picnic

There are several picnic areas throughout the park, many with wood fired barbeque places. Please bring your own wood. The main picnic areas provide gas barbecues free of charge on a first come basis. There are plenty of places to set up your own gas barbecue.

Mountain bike riding

Two areas of the park have been set aside for mountain bike riding. Please observe signage regarding the challenge offered.

- **The Stockyards MTB Area** provides challenging downhill and cross country trails for experienced riders.
- **The Kurrajong Plantation MTB Area** provides family friendly and beginners trails through flat terrain.

Mountain bikes are not permitted in the Western Plantation on walking tracks or Management Vehicle Only tracks outside of the areas listed above.

Scenic drives

- **Great Circle Drive** is a 12km gravel road accessible by two wheel drive cars. The drive provides the full spectrum of scenery available in this unique park.
- **Turntable Drive** is a sealed road from the park entrance to Turntable car park and will take you to Flinders Peak Walk. It provides access to most of the main picnic areas.

Rock-climbing and abseiling

There are several great rock-climbing and abseiling sites throughout the park. Bookings are required for groups. Individuals are not required to book, but should check the availability of sites with the Park Office. Seasonal closures apply to some sites.

Horse riding

The Western Plantation offers great horse riding opportunities. Two looped trails, marked with arrows, begin at the Western Car Park on Sandy Creek Road.

Horses are not permitted in any other area of the park. Drinking water for horses is only provided in the Western Plantation.
Orienteering

A permanent orienteering course has been established in the park. Additional information and maps are available from the park office or the website.

Bunjil Geoglyph

To commemorate the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, a series of geoglyphs was created by renowned artist Andrew Rogers. The geoglyph on the You Yangs depicts Bunjil, the traditional Creator Spirit of the Wada wurrung Aboriginal people. With a wing span of 100 metres, it uses 1500 tonnes of rock

Bunjil is best viewed from Flinders Peak Track. It can also be viewed from the East Walk. Access to Bunjil is from Branding Yard Walk.

A haven for wildlife

The park provides a range of habitats for wildlife. More than 200 species of birds have been recorded in the park and koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, brush-tail possums, echidnas and lizards are commonly seen.

Plants - native and introduced

Tall eucalypts such as Manna Gum, Yellow Gum and River Red Gum give way to sparse undergrowth of native shrubs and groundcovers, with patches of Wattle and Drooping She oaks.

The endangered Brittle Greenhood Orchid is one of thirty species of orchids to be found in the park.

Boneseed, a native of South Africa, chokes out large areas of native vegetation. Parks Victoria is working with volunteer groups and schools to remove Boneseed from areas of high botanical value and supports research into methods of biological control.

Be fire ready and stay safe

Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas. On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety.

If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol where possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check by calling 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au.

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

Opening hours

The Park is open from 8.00am to 4.30pm year round and 8.00am to 6.00pm on weekends and public holidays during daylight savings.

How to get there

The You Yangs Regional Park is 55km southwest of Melbourne CBD and 22km north of Geelong. Access to the park from the Princess Freeway is clearly signposted via Lara.

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